

Napoleon Community Schools

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Napoleon, Michigan 49261-0308
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2460

November 4, 2005

The Honorable Brian Palmer

885 House Office Building

Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Palmer,

Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Wade Beitelschies. I am an Assistant Principal/Athletic Director and also Coordinate Crisis Management and Emergency preparedness at Napoleon Community Schools, which located in Jackson County. Prior to working for the Napoleon School District, I was employed with the Jackson County Sheriff Department as a Sheriff's Deputy and was assigned to SWAT (special weapons and tactics), I served my last four years as a School Liaison Deputy.

I am writing to you because, I received an e-mail news bulletin from *Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals* regarding the pending legislation on school lock downs. I applaud your effort to require lock downs in Michigan schools and I disagree with Mr. Jim Ballard (Director of MASSP) and his position that lock downs would create more fear than safety. We found the exact opposite to be true in our district where we conduct regular lock down scenarios in all buildings in our district. The students take the drills very seriously, and in three years we have had few if any concerns from a parents or students regarding the drills.

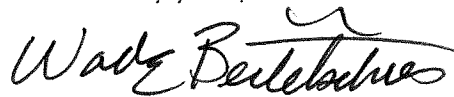
In 2002 we here at Napoleon realized that School Crisis Management Plans fell short in the area of school active violence events, the plans only gave direction to school personnel after the stabilization of the event. The response plans did nothing to prepare or give staff and students direction on what to do during an active violence event.

Napoleon schools, along with area Law Enforcement and Governmental officials, created an initial response plan known as **S.A.V.E.** (School Active Violence Event). The Napoleon model provides an instantaneous response. It also empowers teachers and staff to protect students, it enables 911 to

intelligently coordinate response, it increases the likelihood of mission success for police/fire and EMS, and it does not require the purchasing of specialized equipment.

Mr. Palmer if I can be of any help to you, your colleagues , if you would like more information on our S.A.V.E. program or if you would like participate in or witness one of our lock down scenarios, please feel free to contact me. I wish you the best in making Michigan schools a safer place.

Professionally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wade Beitelschies". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish above the "e" in "Beitelschies".

Wade S. Beitelschies

Assistant Principal/A.D.

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